

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 15, 2021 8:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR: HB 3920

Victoria Hanson

self - retired

Corpus Christi, TX

HB 3920

Comment: In reading HB3920, I think clarification could be made on several points.

-first, this bill does not address signature verification;

-second, if a person must be housebound in order to vote ((Section 82.002, (2) (b) (2)) seems to negate a disability which needs assistance to vote in person ((Section 82.002, (2) (c)). It would be less confusing to the voter if ((Section 82.002, (2) (b) (2)) were eliminated.

Susan Guerrero

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 2989. Leave East Austin alone. In JESUS CHRIST HOLY name amen.

kirk raymond

self

Groesbeck, TX

Please support\move forward with HB 59

Tom Thomas

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Republicans, PLEASE STOP YOUR WAR AGAINST DEMOCRACY. Texas is already one of the most voter-suppressed states in the U.S. Making voting even more difficult is ultimately self-defeating and not at all American.

Dolores Withrow

Self retired

Conroe, TX

Necessary! We need election integrity

shawn flanagan
self/retired
corpus christi, TX

Vote yes! Provides some teeth into enforcing election integrity.

Cathy Allen
Self
The woodlands, TX

In person voting with required ID. Please pass this bill or we will never be able to trust our voting system again. Thank you

Cheryl Highwarden
Self, Volunteer Deputy Registrar
The Woodlands, TX

RE: Bills 3920, 3080, 4331, 3281, 2478. These bills must be STOPPED. They are a transparent attempt to limit voter rights to which all citizens are entitled. When did it start that politicians are willing to "win" at all costs? These bills are nothing short of cheating to try and ensure that only a select group of voters are able to meet voting requirements. Shame on anyone who supports this type of political manipulation! Stop these bills and help our country return to a country of, by and for the people rather than one targeted to the self-interest of politicians!

Jamie Eickhoff
self
San Antonio, TX

Signatures are already verified. No voter should face criminal charges for signature issues. Senior citizens and handicapped individuals often have signature ability issues. This is a terrible intimidation. People will forgo voting to protect themselves from facing criminal charges because some over-zealous person makes a claim of fraud. Terrible idea.

Charles Wiley
Self
Alice, TX

Please Vote yes! We all have work and family issues to juggle when it comes to election day, but excuses like not having transportation, having to work, or not feeling well shouldn't qualify as reasons to early vote by mail. People who anticipate those issues can figure out how to early vote in person for the 2 weeks or so that the polls are open prior to election day. Convenience of the voter doesn't override the responsibility and discipline that it takes to actually vote as a citizen of Texas.

Kathryn Gordon
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Yes

Larry Ringler

Self-retired

Portland, TX

Vote YES!

Natalie Kinard

Self

Kyle, TX

There was no fraud in the 2020 election. If the intent is to make it harder for Texans to vote, the motion is counter to your oaths of office which states you serve ALL Texans, not just those whose voices you agree with.

Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes! We all have issues to juggle when it comes to election day, but excuses like not having transportation, having to work, or not feeling well shouldn't qualify as reasons to early vote by mail. People who anticipate those issues can figure out how to early vote in person for the 2 weeks or so that the polls are open prior to election day. Convenience of the voter doesn't override the responsibility and discipline that it takes to actually vote as a citizen of Texas

Amanda Friedeck, Mrs.

Silver Star Food Stores/BRANDS Marketing Group, LLC

ALICE, TX

I, Amanda Sue Friedeck (Jim Wells County) am in favor of HB 3920. This is so that our elections are transparent, accountable and fair.

Lea Isgur

self

Austin, TX

Oppose. The caption on the bill is misleading. The bill puts obstacles in the way of voting by mail, which should be open to every eligible voter. You wouldn't need this bureaucratic requirement for a voter to sign an affidavit if it was. Most other states allow voting by mail without cause, and there is no reason Texas cannot as well. In the 21st century, it should be easy to thwart any fraudulent voting. I don't think Texans are any more dishonest than people in these other states, and it is an insult that is implied by this legislation. Please vote AGAINST HB3920!

Lisa Humphrey

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

Austin, TX

We write to express our strong opposition to House Bill 3920, which erect entirely unnecessary barriers to voting with no discernable public benefit.

ADL is a national nonpartisan anti-hate organization founded in 1913 with a mission to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment to all.”

While the restrictions in House Bill 3920 will cause harm to all Texans, they also fall disproportionately on those for whom participation in our democracy is already most challenging. House Bill 3920 increases confusion and places unnecessary burdens on voters with disabilities and voters with a sickness who may be able to leave their residence and heightens the difficulty of voting by mail. This puts Texans eager to participate in our political process in the position of having to choose between protecting their health, and the health of others if contagious, by staying home or having to appear in person in order to cast their ballot. It also is another attempt to require voters to prove their disability, undermining confidentiality for these voters. This bill threatens to disenfranchise voters who are elderly, voters who have disabilities and voters with a sickness that does not prevent them from leaving home. House Bill 3920 will make our democracy less accessible and inclusive and less representative, tarnishing the essential promise at the heart of our state’s and nation’s political system: a government by and for the people.

Perhaps House Bill 3920 would be worth the Legislature’s consideration if Texas’s elections were rife with fraud or serious error. But, to quote a recent Texas Tribune story: “Though there are documented cases of fraud in Texas, it remains rare. There have been no reports or evidence that there were widespread issues concerning fraud during the 2020 election, and Keith Ingram – the chief of elections at the Texas Secretary of State’s office – recently told House lawmakers that ‘Texas had an election that was smooth and secure.’”¹ Last year, the Houston Chronicle reported that, despite devoting 22,000 staff hours to the task, the Texas Attorney General’s office closed only 16 cases related to elections – all false addresses on voter registration forms in Harris County.²

Since the early days of the Civil Rights Movement, ADL has faithfully honored its mission to secure justice and fair treatment to all by fighting for universal suffrage and against voter suppression.

Our legislature should be working to expand free and fair access to the ballot box. Consequently, we strongly oppose House Bill 3920.

1 - Alexa Ura, Texas Republicans Begin Pursuing New Voting Restrictions as they Work to Protect Their Hold on Power, TEXAS TRIBUNE, March 22, 2012.

2 - Taylor Goldenstein, Ken Paxton’s Beefed-Up 2020 Fraud Unit Closed 16 Minor Cases, All in Harris County, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, December 22, 2020.

Vince Mouer

self - attorney

Houston, TX

Citizens who travel for work and need to be able to vote by mail. And I note there are Texas citizens in the Armed Forces who must be able to vote by mail.

Klaudia Forgacova

Self - Operations Manager

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3920 and encourage you to oppose it as well. Voting in Texas is already extremely hard for many. This act is one of voter suppression when we should be enabling votes. Not allowing people to vote by mail is not a matter of security, just a matter of suppression. It should be on the individual to determine if they are able to vote in person or would need to vote by mail. The language in this bill would make it to where people's needs are rejected.

Voting is a right. Please act like it, and oppose HB 3920.

Bill Sargent, Former Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Galveston County

Self

Galveston, TX

In November, here in Galveston we had people who were afraid of contracting the CCP COVID-19 virus. They claimed to be disabled when they really were not. In one instance a person who claimed to be disabled and voted absentee, turned around and participated in the Early Voting Ballot Board! She even came down to our polling place and took a video before being discovered and escorted out of the polls. That just isn't right.

I really like the provision of Representative Dean's bill where it says that if a person is able to otherwise leave their residence they may not claim to be disabled. The only thing I would add is a penalty for those who "willfully" claim to be disabled when they are not.

Kimberly Bridges Young

Self

Crp Christi, TX

Vote yes!

Sharon Edwards, Mrs.

Travis Co Chair, Pct 233

Austin, TX

Integrity in elections is critical to honest elections in Texas. All of these bills are important to strengthening that process. They do NOT disenfranchise anyone.

Please vote favorable for this bill.

Karen Borich

Self- small business owner

Austin, TX

It is essential to verify that these mail in ballots are valid and a signature match is a minimum!

Carmalene Churba

Self

Austin, TX

All Texans should want checks and balances to make sure elections are fair and lawful. Only people that are legally able to should be accounted for and a signature verification is one way to do that. I pay taxes and am a legal citizen and want checks and balances in place to protect elections from unscrupulous people with their own agenda.

Keena Miller

self/education

Austin, TX

OPPOSE

Denise Gordon

Self/ TX Dem Veterans

Round Rock, TX

This Bill is an attempt to suppress Voting by Mail and is too specific. Being confined for Childbirth on Election Day is an absurd requirement. Has Rep Dean given Birth? Has Rep Dean been ready to vote the Day after giving Birth? Has Rep Dean met an Obstetrician who can accurately predict the day of a birth other than by cesarean section?

Not having transportation, especially if one lives in a rural area or requires specialized transportation is purely voter suppression. Requiring a voter to vote in person even if they are ill exposes other voters and especially the Poll workers to be unnecessarily exposed to illness.

Creating a Criminal Offense is punitive; SHAME ON YOU FOR SUBMITTING THIS BILL REP DEAN!
DEFEAT THIS BILL!

Kathryn Williams

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

3920 Opposed -- It's wrong and immoral. It places more burden on disabled people than already exists in their lives. It is ill conceived and its intent despite objections by the authors and his supporters it is aimed at squelching the People who are disabled to the extent that they are not capable of waiting in line to vote are still able to work because accommodations are made for their disability. The more barriers to voting, the fewer Americans who can exercise their constitutional right to vote.

JANIS REINKEN, ATTORNEY

SELF / ATTORNEY

AUSTIN, TX

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS HB 3920 04-15-21

I oppose HB 3920 as written or as substituted, considering that the threshold for qualifying for disability for voting by mail is vague as written and as it would be applied. Setting the standard at simply being able to appear at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health fails to take account of infirmities that a person may face that fall outside this unclear standard. While a person with infirmities or partial disability (permanent or temporary) might be able to appear at the polling place, they might not know with any certainty that they would be able to stand or stay in line for hours at a time in the Texas heat, freezing cold, or while it is raining. Many persons have infirmities that are intermittent, like multiple sclerosis, or recovery from surgery, or general frailty and weakness due to age or some other condition. One solution is to change the terminology from disability to infirmity or other debilitating illness. The better solution altogether

would be to allow persons to vote by mail without needing to specify a specific reason why they cannot appear in person.
